

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008**

## **MINUTES**



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### **MINUTES of the TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of BRITISH ORIENTEERING**

**held at THE NAAFI, CROWBOROUGH ARMY TRAINING CAMP**

**at 5:00pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008.**

#### **PRESENT:**

Neil Cameron	Chairman
Lyn West	Vice-Chairman
Peter Christopher	Vice-Chairman
Mike Hamilton	Chief Executive and Company Secretary

D. Allison, R. Baker, R. Baker, A. Barrable, N. Barrable, C. Bostey, L. Broadest, M. Broadest, M. Buckley, S. Buckley, H. Burrows, H. Burrows, J. Burrows, P. Cameron, G. Candy, S. Cartwright, A. Chapman, P. Chapman, J. Christopher, S. Collier, H. Cox, M. Cox, J. Cross, S. Denmark, J. Denmark, D. Denness, I. Ditchfield, A. Donnell, B. Elkington, H. Finlayson, P. Frost, S.J. Gaffney, D. Gale, J. Gale, J. Gorvett, P. Gorvett, D. Grassie, P. Grenfell, Q. Harding, E. Hargreaves, R. Hargreaves, L. Hartmann, J. Hemingway, J. Holt, B. Hooper, L. Hooper, M. Hooper, J. Hurley, J. Inman, C. James, G. James, N. Jones, A. Kelly, G. Longhurst, L. Longhurst, P. Lowe, R. Macdonald, N. Mackenzie, M. Martin, A. May, D. May, S. McLean, B. Melville, K. Melville, J. Morris, J. Nell, M. Nell, E. Nicholas, O. O'Brien, H. Palmer, J. Palmer, D. Peel, J. Peel, S. Round, P. Rye, M. Saunders, R. Scrutton, C. Spears, S. Spears, J. Stevenson, K. Stubbs, S. Thompson, A. Vince, C. Vince, L. Walker, L. Ward, M. Ward, A. Watkins, S. Watkins, I. Webb, A. Weller, C. West, J. West, J. Woodall, D. Woodall, A. Yeadon, L. Yeadon, L. Young.

making a total of 102 members.

Members were welcomed to the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM of British Orienteering by Neil Cameron, Chairman of British Orienteering.

The meeting approved the appointment of Laura Young, as minute taker and Hilary Palmer, Derek Allison and Gareth Candy as tellers. Barry Elkington (OD) was approved as scrutineer of the voting procedure.

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:

- Frank Rose
- Kath Rose
- John Bennison
- Roy Denney
- Beryl Blackhall
- Chris Boycott
- Mike Crockett
- Colin Matheson
- Pat Martin
- Natalie Burns
- Roger Jackson
- Pat Macleod
- Charles Bromley Gardner
- Sally Morris
- Roger Lott

## **2. Minutes of the Twenty Sixth Annual General Meeting held on April 7th 2007.**

The minutes of the Twenty Sixth AGM were accepted, by a show of hands, as a correct record.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

There being no questions, the Chairman's report, as previously circulated, was accepted by a show of hands.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

There being no questions, the Treasurer's report, as previously circulated, was accepted by a show of hands.

## **5. Chief Executive's Report**

There being no questions, the Chief Executive's report, as previously circulated, was accepted by a show of hands.

## **6. Proposals**

### **Proposal 1: Adoption of Accounts**

Proposed: Jenny Peel (SYO)

Seconded: John Morris (SO)

There being no questions, the meeting agreed to vote on the adoption of the 2007 accounts:

The proposed adoption of accounts was accepted by a vote.

Voting (by ballot and including proxies):

For 355

Against 3

Abstentions 16

99.2%

0.8%

## **Proposal 2: Appointment of Auditors**

Proposed: Jenny Peel (SYO)

Seconded: John Morris (SO)

NC described the background to the change of auditors in line with good practice.

John Grenfell (BOK) queried if any additional cost would be incurred. Jenny Peel (SYO) replied that there was no known extra expense by changing auditors.

There being no further questions, the meeting agreed to vote on the appointment of auditors and that the Board should agree the fees.

The proposed appointment of auditors was accepted by a vote.

Voting (by ballot and including proxies):

For 363	Against 3	Abstentions 9
99.2%	0.8%	

## **Proposal 3: British Orienteering Membership and Levy for 2009**

That British Orienteering Membership Fees for 2009 shall be as follows (the figures for 2008 are in brackets):

National Senior Membership:	£20.00	(£16.50)
Local Senior Membership:	£7.50	(£ 6.60)
National Junior Membership:	£4.50	(£ 3.85)
Local Junior Membership:	Nil	Nil
National Family Membership:	£28.00	(£22.00)
Local Family Membership:	£13.00	(£11.00)
Associate:	£20.00	(£16.50)
Club:	£40.00	(£33.00)

That the British Orienteering Event Levies for Seniors and Juniors for 2009 be as follows:

### **LEVY COSTS - BASED ON NEW PROPOSED MODEL**

Participation Rate	250	Higher Participation Rate
	75	Lower Participation Rate
Levies	£2.50	Higher Levy – per participant for the number of participants over the Higher Participation Rate.
	£1.50	Lower Levy – per participant for the number of participants over the Lower Participation Rate and up to the Higher Participation Rate.

Proposed: Jenny Peel (SYO)

Seconded: John Morris (SO)

Les Hooper (SO) raised potential issues with regard to the new levy proposals and their

effect on small local events and the cost for families. Les Hooper (SO) also noted that orienteering needs new junior participation and the levy proposals may put them off competing.

John Burrows (NGOC) questioned why membership fees had increased by approximately 20% when inflation was only approximately 3%.

Jenny Peel (SYO) responded by suggesting that with the instability of guaranteed funding for the future, this was a possible move to increase British Orienteering's ability to be more self sufficient.

Scott Collier (KERN) queried the necessity for increased levy costs and the impact on local events.

Chris James (NGOC) responded by highlighting the impact of the Olympics in London 2012 and the reduced funding available.

Simon Thompson (MDOC) queried the percentage rise between National and Local membership fees

Jenny Peel (SYO) responded by clarifying that the differential percentage changes were to continue to encourage new members.

Andrew Kelly (AIRE) questioned what constituted junior only events. He suggested that the new levy proposals discriminated against mixed junior and senior events.

John Morris (SO) responded to John Burrows (NGOC) previous point regarding inflation by suggesting that inflation applied to 'normal' goods and orienteering membership did not classify as a normal good. He went on to suggest that levy is a levy on a club staging an event not on individual orienteers. He also suggested that larger clubs have lower fixed costs and can therefore run events easier and cheaper. He suggested that the new levy proposal shifted the emphasis onto larger clubs taking more of the load from smaller clubs. He also commented that junior-only events would have to be approved as junior only.

Peter Gorvett (SYO) noted that currently his club charges £1 junior entry fee for district events. He suggested that juniors should not count as a 'full' participant with regard to levy.

Jenny Peel (SYO) responded by explaining that the National Office compared the old and new levy systems for 2006 events. Income overall for 2009 would rise by 3% and the number of levy exempt events would actually rise from 164 to 243.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) noted a letter received from Martin Helfer (BOK) opposing the levy proposals for many of the reservations already voiced.

Heather Burrows (ERYRI) explained that the cost per person was spread over all participants.

Peter Christopher (WCH) asked what the process would be if the levy proposal was rejected.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) explained that the issue would have to be raised with the new Board of Directors but one possibility presumably was that the levy would continue as for 2008.

Nick Jones (AIRE) asked the meeting whether the membership and levy proposals could be taken separately.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) explained that this may be a possible way for the future but the

proposals were presented this way originally and therefore would go to the vote as one proposal.

There being no further questions, the meeting agreed to vote on the membership and levy fees for 2009.

The proposed membership and levy fees were accepted by the vote.

Voting (by ballot and including proxies):

For 261	Against 92	Abstentions 33
73.9%	26.1%	

#### **Proposal 4: Proposed changes to the Articles of Association**

It is proposed that a new section 6.3 be added to article 6.

- 6.3 All bodies listed in Article 6.1 shall be bound by the published policies of the Federation including, but not limited to, those relating to Child Welfare and Equity.
- 6.3.1 The Board shall have the power to impose penalties or sanctions on any body listed in Article 6.1 if that body does not after reasonable notice comply with such policies.
- 6.3.2 Such penalties or sanctions may include withdrawal of the right to enter Federation competitions, to have events or competitions publicised by the Federation, or to benefit from services developed by the Federation including, but not limited to, insurance, support from Development Officers, and participation in Conferences or courses.
- 6.3.3 Sanctions other than those listed in Article 6.3.2 may be imposed, where appropriate, at the Board's discretion.

Proposed: John Morris (SO)                      Seconded: Peter Christopher (WCH)

John Morris (SO) introduced the proposal and explained that organisations that host events with children and vulnerable adults must have policies in place to provide protection. He explained that this proposal ensured clubs 'bought into' British Orienteering policies. He noted that it was important that everyone understood and complied with the policies.

Colin West (SOS) noted that the proposal should describe the British Orienteering 'Equality' and not 'Equity' policy.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) asked for a show of hands of those who were happy for the wording of the proposal to be changed. This was accepted by a show of hands and he ruled as Chairman that this was not a substantial alteration to the intention of the motion.

There being no further questions, the meeting agreed to vote on the proposed changes to the Articles of Association.

The proposed changes to the Articles of Association were accepted by a vote.

Voting (by ballot and including proxies):

For 345	Against 12	Abstentions 28
96.6%	3.4%	

## 7. Elections

The following individuals had been proposed, unopposed, for the following posts and were duly elected by acclamation:

President: Sir Christian Bonington, CBE

Vice President: John Disley, CBE

Neil Cameron (NGOC) gave the meeting a background to the director elections. The previous governance structure was a Council and Management Committee but a move to a board of ten directors had been agreed at the EGM on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Six members of Management Committee were continuing and there were three director posts up for election. Neil Cameron (NGOC) said he was pleased with the good response for candidates and that eight were standing for the three positions. He thanked all the nominees for allowing themselves to be put forward.

All candidates were introduced to the meeting but weren't invited to speak. Colin Matheson (NATO) sent his apologies as he is working towards JK 2009.

There being no further questions, the meeting agreed to vote in the director election.

Votes were cast and voting papers collected by tellers.

The meeting then requested clarification on the director voting procedure.

Andrew Kelly (AIRE) suggested that the AGM papers did not properly explain the vote counting procedure and this raised possible problems with previously cast proxy votes.

Mike Hamilton (Chief Executive) explained that the voting system had been discussed at Management Committee and had been explained to the nominees. He went on to explain that the system helped to counteract tactical voting and was well established with lots of detailed information available about it.

John Burrows (NGOC) questioned the validity of voting for either 1 or 8 candidates.

Gill James (NGOC) asked if the candidates themselves were happy with the voting system. She suggested that if there were no objections by the candidates these were satisfactory grounds to continue.

Neil Mackenzie (HOC) explained that experts had studied the system and it was statistically sound.

Martin Ward (SYO) noted that as a director nominee he was surprised by the scoring system but had investigated the process and was happy with the details.

Ian Webb (OUOC) suggested that by not publicising the details of the voting system it could have changed the way people had cast their proxy votes.

Heather Burrows (ERYRI) suggested that it was beneficial to the voting as a whole that people were not informed of the vote counting system as it may have skewed the outcome.

John Woodall (NOC) said that as a nominee he was happy that the voting system worked but would have preferred using an X against three candidates as a simpler system.

Duncan Grassie (GRAMP) suggested he would have voted differently if he had been aware of the vote counting system.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) agreed that more information should have been presented to the members. He also noted that all members had voted using the same amount of information.

Lynden Hartmann (HOC) asked why the information had not been made public.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) explained that there were numerous complexities for example candidates withdrawing and avoiding confusion in a voter's mind about whether 1 was points being awarded rather than voter preference. These were discussed at the Management Committee meeting and a judgement was made that the committee hoped would make things easier for members to vote. He noted that the elections had been held properly and correctly and members had been given the opportunity to ask questions prior to the vote if they saw fit. He acknowledged that lessons could be learnt and steps would be taken to rectify this for future elections.

## **8. British Orienteering Awards Ceremony**

Silva Award for Services to Orienteering.

This was awarded to Pat Martin (NOR) who was not present at the meeting due to ill health.

Club of the Year

This was awarded to South Ribble Orienteering Club

Equal 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Club of the Year was awarded to:

Mar Orienteering Club

South Yorkshire Orienteers

West Cumberland Orienteering Club

Colin Spears (HOC), Chairman of the British Orienteering Map Group, presented this year's mapping awards:

Silva Trophy for Professional Cartography

This was awarded to Jonathan Musgrave (MAROC) who was not present at the meeting.

## Bonington Trophy for Services to Mapping

This was awarded to Peter Jones (WRE) who was not present at the meeting.

## Best City/Sprint Map

This was awarded to Neil Northrop (SYO) who was not present at the meeting.

## Clubmark

Leicestershire Orienteering Club received their Clubmark accreditation.

## Coach of the Year

This was awarded jointly to Alice Bedwell (BOK) and Mark Saunders (BOK).

## 8. Election Results

Neil Cameron (NGOC) announced that the results of the director election were now available. The results were as follows:

Martyn Broadest	967 points
Scott Collier	678 points
Ranald Macdonald	881 points
Colin Matheson	639 points
David May	1046 points
Ed Nicholas	1026 points
Martin Ward	1162 points
John Woodall	660 points

Neil Cameron (NGOC) announced that the three elected directors were Martin Ward (SYO), David May (SLOW) and Ed Nicholas (CLYDE). He thanked all candidates and congratulated the three new directors.

## 9. Any Other Business

The meeting noted an omission to the Roll of Honour on the 2007 Annual Report. The successes of Liz Campbell (WAROC) and Anne Donnell (BOK) at the 2007 World Masters had not been included. The Chair agreed that this was a serious omission and would be rectified in the future.

Mike Elliott (MV) asked when the British Orienteering website would be accessible to those not using a broadband internet connection.

Mike Hamilton (Chief Executive) explained that the proposed solution was to develop a menu bar that didn't use the 'flash' programme. He explained that this was currently being trialed and should be available in the coming weeks.

The meeting requested further details regarding the proposed fixtures changes.

Lyn West (SOS) explained that Events Committee were currently looking into this and it may be introduced in 2009. She explained that there would be no formal announcement until the details were sorted and finalised.



Neil Cameron (NGOC) explained that the details would be posted on the website when they were completed.

Ed Nicholas (CLYDE) commended the work of the professional staff at the British Orienteering National office.

Neil Cameron (NGOC) thanked everyone involved with the organisation of the JK 2008.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance, time and attention, and the tellers and office staff for their assistance in running the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 19.45.